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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Maertens et al

Atty. Ref.: **2752-51**

Divisional Serial No. **08/362,455**

Group:

Filed: **July 6, 2001**

Examiner:

For: **NEW SEQUENCES OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS
GENOTYPES AND THEIR USE AS THERAPEUTIC AND
DIAGNOSTIC AGENTS**

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July 6, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminarily amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the claims as follows.

Cancel claims 1-23, without prejudice and add the following new claims:

--24. (new) A HCV antibody specifically recognizing an antigen from type 3, 4, 5

or type 2d of HCV.

B1 25. (new) An HCV antibody according to claim 24 which has been produced
upon immunization from a mammal with an antigen from type 3, 4, 5 or type 2d of HCV.